

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, reflects all changes currently being made to them, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus capable of communication with an external unit connected thereto, comprising:

a connection unit for connecting ~~said~~ the external unit;

a first control unit connectable with ~~said~~ the external unit via said connection unit for controlling communication between ~~said~~ the connected external unit and said information processing apparatus;

a second control unit connectable with ~~said~~ the external unit via said connection unit for controlling communication between ~~said~~ the connected external unit and said information processing apparatus; and

a switching unit for selecting said first control unit or said second control unit as control unit connected with ~~said~~ the external unit via said connection unit, for communication between ~~said~~ the connected external unit and said information processing apparatus.

2. (currently amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said switching unit ~~has~~ further comprises:

a determination unit for determining the type of ~~said~~ the connected external unit; and

a selection unit for selecting said first control unit or said second control unit as said control unit connected with ~~said~~ the external unit, for controlling the communication between ~~said~~ the external unit and said information processing apparatus, in correspondence with the determined type of ~~said~~ the external unit.

3. (currently amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said first control unit is a device controller, and wherein if said determination unit determines that ~~said~~ the external unit is a USB host unit in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, said selection unit selects said first control unit so as to connect said first control unit with ~~said~~ the external unit.

4. (currently amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said connection unit is an AB type connector in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, and wherein if a B type connector is connected with said connection unit, said determination unit determines that ~~said~~ the external unit is said USB host unit.

5. (currently amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said second control unit is a host controller, and wherein if said determination unit determines that ~~said~~ the external unit is a USB device unit in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards,

said selection unit selects said second control unit so as to connect said second control unit with ~~said~~ the external unit.

6. (currently amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said connection unit is an AB type connector in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, and

wherein if an A type connector is connected with said connection unit, said determination unit determines that ~~said~~ the external unit is said USB device unit.

7. (currently amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

a use status determination unit for determining a use status of said first control unit and said second control unit; and

a warning unit for, if said use status determination unit determines that said first control unit or said second control unit is in use, and said control unit, selected from said first and second control unit in correspondence with the type of ~~said~~ the external unit determined by said determination unit and connected with ~~said~~ the external unit, is in use, giving a warning to an operator of said information processing apparatus,

wherein said selection unit selects said control unit in use as said control unit connected with ~~said~~ the external unit.

8. (currently amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein if said use status determination unit determines that said

control unit in use has become not in use, said selection unit selects said control unit that has been in use as said control unit connected with ~~said~~ the external unit.

9. (currently amended): A control method for an information processing apparatus capable of communication with an external unit connected thereto via a connection unit, comprising:

a first control step of controlling, using a first control unit connectable with the external unit via the connection unit, communication between ~~said~~ the connected external unit and ~~said~~ the information processing apparatus;

a second control step of controlling, using a second control unit connectable with the external unit via the connection unit, communication between ~~said~~ the connected external unit and ~~said~~ the information processing apparatus; and

a switching step of selecting execution of said first control step or execution of said second control step as a control step of controlling communication between ~~said~~ the connected external unit and ~~said~~ the information processing apparatus.

10. (currently amended): The control method according to claim 9, wherein said switching step ~~has~~: further comprises a determination step of determining the type of ~~said~~ the connected external unit~~[[;]]~~, and ~~a selection step of~~ includes selecting execution of said first control step or execution of said second control step as said control step for controlling the communication between ~~said~~ the external unit and ~~said~~ the information processing apparatus, in correspondence with the determined type of ~~said~~ the external unit.

11. (currently amended): The control method according to claim 10, wherein said first control step is a device control step, and wherein if it is determined ~~[[at]]~~ in said determination step that ~~said~~ the external unit is a USB host unit in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, then said first control step is selected ~~[[at]]~~ in said selection step, so as to perform communication between ~~said~~ the external unit and ~~said~~ the information processing apparatus ~~[[at]]~~ in said first control step.

12. (currently amended): The control method according to claim 11, wherein ~~said~~ the connection unit is an AB type connector in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, and

wherein, if a B type connector is connected with ~~said~~ the connection unit, it is determined ~~[[at]]~~ in said determination step that ~~said~~ the external unit is ~~said~~ the USB host unit.

13. (currently amended): The control method according to claim 10, wherein said second control step is a host control step, and

wherein, if it is determined ~~[[at]]~~ in said determination step that ~~said~~ the external unit is a USB device unit in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, said second control step is selected ~~[[at]]~~ in said selection step, so as to perform communication between ~~said~~ the external unit and ~~said~~ the information processing apparatus ~~[[at]]~~ in said second control step.

14. (currently amended): The control method according to claim 13, wherein ~~said~~ the connection unit is an AB type connector in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, and

wherein, if an A type connector is connected with ~~said~~ the connection unit, it is determined ~~[[at]]~~ in said determination step that ~~said~~ the external unit is ~~said~~ the USB device unit.

15. (currently amended): The control method according to claim 10, further comprising:

an execution status determination step of determining an execution status of said first control step and said second control step; and

a warning step of, if it is determined ~~[[at]]~~ in said execution status determination step that said first control step or said second control step is in execution, and said control step, selected from said first step and said second control step in correspondence with the type of ~~said~~ the external unit determined ~~[[by]]~~ in said determination step and controlling communication between ~~said~~ the external unit and ~~said~~ the information processing apparatus, is in execution, giving a warning to an operator of ~~said~~ the information processing apparatus,

wherein, ~~[[at]]~~ in said selection step, said control ~~unit~~ step that is in execution is selected as said control step of controlling communication between ~~said~~ the external unit and ~~said~~ the information processing apparatus.

16. (currently amended): The control method according to claim 15, wherein, if it is determined ~~[[at]]~~ in said use status determination step that said control step in execution ~~has become not~~ is no longer in execution, said control step that has been in execution is selected ~~[[at]]~~ in said selection step as said control step of controlling communication between ~~said the~~ external unit and ~~said the~~ information processing apparatus.

17. (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing, in executable form, a control program for information processing apparatus for executing by means of a computer the control method according to claim 9.